(a) whether it is a fact that in the human development index published under the aegis of the UNDP in 2003, based on the date for the year 2001, India's ranking has been down graded substantially;

(b) if so, the details of the rankings published in 2003;

(c) what are the main factors which this declaration of India's ranking has been attributed to;

(d) its impact on the flow of assistance under UNDP to India during the following year; and

(e) the steps contemplated, if any, to achieve improved position of the country in human development in a time-bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (e) India had a rank of 124 in Human Development Report (HDR) for 2002. It came down 3 places to rank at 127 on Human Development Index (HDI) among 175 countries and territories ranked by the UNDP's HDR for 2003. The ranks of India's South Asian neighbours on the HDI are Bangladesh-139, Bhutan-136, Maldives-86, Nepal-143, Pakistan-144 and Sri Lanka-99.

The decline in India's ranking is due to inclusion of two new countries in the ranking of this year's report and an increase in the value of HDI for Botswana *vis-a-vis* India. The two new countries are Bosnia and Herazegovina and Occupied Palestinian Territories which have better ranking than India at 66 and 98 respectively. While the value of India's health indicator is better than Botswana, the values of education and GDP indices have been stated to be better in case of Botswana as compared to India.

The strategy to achieve higher levels of human development at the national level and at the State level and to reduce inter regional disparities in levels of attainment has been suitably incorporated in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Registration of engineers

3231. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that AICTE, in the first week of March, 2003, issued a public notice announcing that it has decided to undertake the responsibility of registration of engineers in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have also come out with a proposal of introducing a licence for engineers to practice their profession;

(c) whether any consultation have been carried out in this regard with the associations/representatives of the engineering community; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA):(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has undertaken the task of evolving a mechanism for registration and licensing of Engineers. To evolve suitable mechanism, AICTE has constituted a Committee of Experts consisting of senior academicians, distinguished engineers and professionals. As part of consultation process, the Committee considers suggestions from various individuals/associations/ representatives of the engineering community.

Government syllabi in Madarsas upto Class Sixth

3232. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the State Governments to ensure that all Madarsas adopt Government syllabi up to class sixth even as they impart Islamic teaching to students, as has been done in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) whether Madarsas are being asked to register themselves as a society or trust and have a Chartered Accountant to look into financial dealings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA):(a) No, Sir.

(b) the Ministry gives financial grants through the State Government under its scheme of Area Intensive and Madarsa Modernisation Programme, only to those Madarsas which are registered under the Central